



PLACER COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
CORONER-MARSHAL



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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

**STEPHEN L. D'ARCY**  
UNDERSHERIFF

## PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 9/ 1/ 01 10:00 AM  
DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: 8/ 31/ 01 6:45 PM  
NATURE OF CALL: SEARCH AND RESCUE  
LOCATION OF CALL: SQUAW VALLEY, LAKE TAHOE, CA  
CASE NUMBER: SO-01-15033  
SUSPECTS: N/A

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### SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

The Placer County Sheriff's Department received a missing person report on Friday, August 31 at about 6:45 p.m. Michael Lutz, a 48 year old visitor from Dublin, California had taken the ski lift tram from the base of Squaw Valley to High Camp at about 12:30 p.m. Lutz was intending to hike back down to the valley via the Shirley Lake trail, which is about a two hour route.

When Lutz' family members had not heard from him by 6:45 p.m. they called the Sheriff's Department to report him missing. A Search and Rescue operation was immediately started which included members of the Squaw Valley Fire Department, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue, Squaw Valley Ski Corp. and Placer County Sheriff's Department Communications volunteers.

At about 8:45 p.m. Lutz called the Olympic Valley Inn in Squaw Valley where he was staying to let his family know that he had been lost, but had found help and was on his way back after finding a ride from a resident.

When Lutz returned to Squaw Valley he told the search teams that he had taken the Pacific Crest Trail north to Truckee and had come out in the Cold Stream area near Donner Lake about ten miles away. Lutz was able to receive help from a Cold Stream resident who let him use a telephone and gave him a ride back.

Lutz told rescuers that he was in good shape, but his legs were tired and he sure appreciated the ride back.

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**RELEASED BY: Sgt. Jeffrey A. Granum, North Tahoe Station**

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